

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A method of clustering a plurality of client IP addresses within a distributed information network, the method comprising the steps of:
generating a unified prefix/netmask table from a plurality of network routing table prefix/netmask entries;
comparing each of the plurality of client IP addresses with the unified prefix/netmask table to determine a common prefix between each of the plurality of client IP addresses and at least one of the entries in the unified prefix/netmask table; and
grouping client IP addresses which share a common prefix into a network client cluster.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of generating a unified prefix/netmask table from a plurality of network routing table prefix/netmask entries includes the steps of:
extracting the prefix/netmask entries from a plurality of network routing tables;
and
converting the prefix/netmask entries into a standardized format.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the client IP addresses are extracted from a network log.
4. (Original) The method of claim 3, further comprising:
identifying existing spiders and/or proxies within the network log.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
placing one or more servers in front of a network client cluster, wherein the servers are at least one of proxy servers, cache servers, content distribution servers and mirror servers.
6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the common prefix is the common longest matching prefix from the unified prefix/netmask table.
7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the distributed information network is the World Wide Web.
8. (Original) A method for guiding placement of servers within a distributed information network using at least one network server log and at least one network routing table from the distributed information network; the method comprising:
extracting a plurality of prefix/netmask entries from the at least one network routing table;
generating a unified prefix/netmask table from the plurality of extracted prefix/netmask entries;
extracting a plurality of client IP addresses from the at least one network server log;
comparing each of the plurality of client IP addresses with entries in the unified/prefix netmask table to determine a common longest matching prefix between each of the plurality of client IP addresses and the entries in the unified/prefix netmask table; and
grouping all of the client IP addresses which share the common longest matching prefix into at least one client cluster.
9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein generating a unified prefix/netmask table from the plurality of extracted prefix/netmask entries includes:
converting the prefix/netmask entries into a standardized format.

10. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the servers are selected from the group consisting of proxy servers, cache servers, content distribution servers and mirror servers.

11. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein each client cluster is assigned one or more servers.

12. (Original) The method of claim 8, further comprising:
assigning one or more servers to each client cluster based on the number of requests issued by the client within each client cluster.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) A method for clustering clients, the method comprising:
creating a unified table of routing address information;
comparing one or more client IP addresses with the unified routing table to determine which client IP addresses belong to a common network; and
clustering together the client IP addresses which belong to the common network into client clusters. ~~The method of claim 13,~~
wherein the routing address information is prefix/netmask information extracted from a plurality of routing tables.

15. (Currently Amended) A method for clustering clients, the method comprising:
creating a unified table of routing address information;
comparing one or more client IP addresses with the unified routing table to determine which client IP addresses belong to a common network; and
clustering together the client IP addresses which belong to the common network into client clusters. ~~The method of claim 13,~~
wherein the common network is defined by a common longest matching prefix shared by each of the client IP addresses.

16. (Currently Amended) A method for clustering clients, the method comprising:
creating a unified table of routing address information;
comparing one or more client IP addresses with the unified routing table to
determine which client IP addresses belong to a common network; and
clustering together the client IP addresses which belong to the common
network into client clusters~~The method of claim 13,~~

wherein creating a unified table of routing address information includes:

extracting a plurality of entries from a plurality of routing tables;
unifying the plurality of entries into a consistent format; and
merging the plurality of entries into the unified table.

17. (Currently Amended) A method for clustering clients, the method comprising:
creating a unified table of routing address information;
comparing one or more client IP addresses with the unified routing table to
determine which client IP addresses belong to a common network; and
clustering together the client IP addresses which belong to the common
network into client clusters~~The method of claim 13,~~

wherein comparing one or more client IP addresses with the unified routing table to determine which client IP addresses belong to a common network includes extracting the one or more IP addresses from at least one server log.

18. (Currently Amended) A method for clustering clients, the method comprising:
creating a unified table of routing address information;
comparing one or more client IP addresses with the unified routing table to
determine which client IP addresses belong to a common network;
clustering together the client IP addresses which belong to the common
network into client clusters; and~~The method of claim 13, further comprising:~~
assigning servers to client clusters based on the number of clients comprising each
client cluster and the number of requests issued by those clients.

19. (Currently Amended) A method for clustering clients, the method comprising:
creating a unified table of routing address information;
comparing one or more client IP addresses with the unified routing table to
determine which client IP addresses belong to a common network;
clustering together the client IP addresses which belong to the common
network into client clusters; and~~The method of claim 13, further comprising:~~
assigning servers to the client clusters, wherein the servers are at least one of proxy servers, cache servers, content distribution servers and mirror servers.

20. (Original) A computer-readable medium storing executable instructions which cause a computer to perform the steps of:
creating a unified routing table from a plurality of routing table entries extracted from two or more network routing tables;
prefix matching a plurality of client IP addresses with the entries in the unified routing table; and
clustering client IP addresses which share common prefixes from the unified routing table into client clusters, wherein each client cluster will be serviced by at least one proxy server.

21. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 20, wherein creating a unified routing table from a plurality of routing table entries extracted from two or more network routing tables includes converting the plurality of routing table entries into a standardized format.

22. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 20, wherein the plurality of client IP addresses are extracted from a server log.

23. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 20, wherein the common prefix is the longest matching prefix between the IP addresses in a client cluster and one of the unified routing table entries.

24. (Original) The computer-readable medium of claim 20, wherein the server is one of a proxy server, a cache server, a content distribution server and a mirror server.